

	<p style="text-align: center;">CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">22 September 2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Family Services Quarterly Update</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – All About Me/Family Friendly Recovery Strategy Appendix 2 – Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2019-20 Appendix 2.1 - Foster care Annual Report 2019-20 Appendix 2.2 - North London Adoption Consortium Report 2019-20 Appendix 2.3 - Virtual School Annual Report 2019-20 Appendix 2.4 Annual Independent Reviewing Service Report 2019-20 Appendix 3 – ChAT Appendix 3.1 Performance Matter</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Collette McCarthy, Assistant Director Commissioning, Family Services LBB: collette.mccarthy@Barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Chris Munday Executive Director for Children and Young People Chris.Munday@barnet.gov.uk</p>
<p>Summary</p>	
<p>Family Friendly is an outcome of the Council’s Recovery Framework and Corporate Plan. The Family Friendly/All about Me Recovery Strategy sets out our strategic recovery priorities and recovery intentions for service delivery as restrictions are eased and we enter in to a new operating model. Our strategic recovery priorities are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting children to return to school/learning; 2. Children’s safeguarding remains the highest context; 	

- 3. Supporting corporate parenting;**
- 4. Children’s mental health and wellbeing;**
- 5. Life chances**

As part of our recovery we have also begun to assess our practice for the possibility of an Ofsted focused visit in the autumn which will inform the annual refresh of our self-assessment. How we respond to our recovery priorities in a child centred way will form what we need to demonstrate to Ofsted inspectors during a focused visit.

This report provides an update against our strategic recovery priorities, including our preliminary assessment of practice, ahead of our annual refreshed self-assessment which will be presented to the November committee.

This report also reports on our partners’ progress against the Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) 2019-23.

Appendix 2 reports on the progress and outcomes for children in care and care leavers in Barnet for the period April 2019 to March 2020. It has appendices for the Annual Independent Reviewing Officer report, the Annual Fostering Report, Annual Adoption Report and Annual Virtual School Report. Reporting on key strategic priorities, it provides an overview of 2019-20, from our Ofsted “good” in May 2019, to the start of the pandemic at the end of the financial year. Building on our momentum, 2019-20 has been a year of taking stock, reflecting on our service and developing it; actioning our recommendations as we continue our journey to providing excellent services to our children and families consistently. Key areas of focus have been; ensuring that the children in our care remains central to all we do and plan; developing our placement sufficiency offer so that children are moved to the right care arrangement first time; strengthening their opportunities and educational outcomes through collaborative partnerships and innovations; ensuring we maximise opportunities and life chances for all our care experienced young people.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note and provide comments on the COVID-19 Family Services All about Me/Family Friendly Recovery Strategy.**
- 2. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note the updates against each strategic recovery priority.**
- 3. That the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee is asked to note our preliminary assessment of practice ahead of our annually refreshed self-assessment in preparedness for an Ofsted focused visit.**
- 4. That the committee notes and scrutinise progress of performance against our corporate parenting responsibilities provided in Appendices 2-2.4.**
- 5. That the Committee note and scrutinise the Children’s Social Care performance information provided in Appendix 3.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Coronavirus, or Covid-19, is widely recognised as being the single biggest issue facing the country since the Second World War. The imposed lockdown, while necessary to protect health, has had widespread individual, social and economic impacts and considerable negative effects on health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 Children are at increased risk of being exposed to these negative impacts. Nationally and locally there is an increased demand on mental health and wellbeing services. We have seen a 25% increase of anxiety related presentations due to COVID-19 in our Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (BICS) and our KOOTH online counselling service for young people.
- 1.3 Families are facing increasing pressures due to a strain on finances, the stress of isolation and managing childcare demands alongside work commitments. In Barnet, the number of work related benefits being claimed in July 2020 has tripled from claims made in February 2020. Young people are at significant risk of economic hardship with 18-24-year olds in Barnet claiming benefits up from 2.5% in July 2019, to 9.5% in July 2020; they are also more likely to be furloughed. There has been a reduction in young people in education, employment and training.
- 1.4 Children have missed a significant part of their education which will impact on their social and emotional development as well as educational outcomes. Furthermore, for some children attending school is a protective factor and forms part of their support plan. After an initial reduction of contacts into the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) we are now seeing an increase and with more contacts in the first two weeks of August compared to the same point last year. We are anticipating a further increase in demand once schools open for all children in September.
- 1.5 Children remain at the centre of all we do. All of our services have remained operational, albeit primarily through virtual means. Throughout the pandemic we have continued to see children, making use of technology when face to face contact has not been possible. How we maintained child centred practice during this period will be important to demonstrate to Ofsted inspectors if we receive a focused visit in the autumn.
- 1.6 Ofsted have announced that they intend to conduct 35 focused visits in local authorities between September and December 2020. The visits will be for 3 days and local authorities will be given 10 working days' notice with visits conducted off-site if an area is in lockdown. All areas of practice will be examined with a particular focus on the quality of decision-making and the use of regulatory flexibilities. They will prioritise their programme of

visits on local authorities that were due an inspection during the national lockdown, areas that Ofsted are worried about and those where they expect to see good practice. Because we were graded as Good in May we anticipate that we will be subject to a focused visit.

- 1.7 Our recovery strategy sets out our strategic priorities and how we intend to fully recover our services with detailed five stage recovery plans for each service. This report provides an update on progress against each of the strategic priorities which will inform our assessment of practice ahead of an Ofsted focused visit

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Our strategic recovery priorities reflect the most critical issues that we need to address to ensure that children remain the highest context thought out the various stages and waves of the pandemic; they are the most pressing issues. How we respond to these priorities in a child centred way will form what we need to demonstrate to Ofsted inspectors during a focused visit.

Supporting children to return to school/learning

- 2.2.1 For full return in September we have supported early years providers and schools by developing Risk Assessment templates which were collated and passed to Health & Safety and Public Health teams. All schools are expected to re-open for all pupils in September, with some schools opening on a phased basis.
- 2.2.2 Reassurance of parents is key to opening up of schools. There is a risk that parents choose not to send their children to school due to concerns about safety. This can include concerns about travelling on public transport. The change in policy on home to school transport due later this year will also have an impact. To address this, we will expand our Elective Home Education capacity to manage this possible surge. However, our focus is on transition back into school.
- 2.2.3 We have been working in partnership with the schools, developing a school action card to support schools if there is an outbreak.
- 2.2.4 Our Back to school campaign is live and supporting transition back into school. The first campaign was delivered in June and the second will launch ahead of return to school in September. The campaign signposts children, young people, parents, carers, teachers and other practitioners to a wealth of services, resources and articles aimed at supporting a smooth transition back to school. More information can be found at <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/backtoschool>. Please [see also link](#) to a short film aimed at children with young people voicing over what to expect when they

return to school in September. This film covers the fact that the return to school in September will be compulsory for all, the changes students can expect to see around school, what bubbles mean, where to go for support, reminder of good hygiene and how to get to school safely.

- 2.2.5 As far as possible, our focus throughout the pandemic has been on children continuing to learn. As children transition into school, we address any concerns of lost learning. We have participated in a 6-borough project on lost learning which is being used by schools to look at programmes in the autumn term.
- 2.2.6 Our Virtual School has been operational throughout the pandemic, adapting to new ways of working. At the start of the pandemic, tuition for all children was offered for two hours a week for four weeks to bridge the gap as schools got their online learning up and running and some children returned to school.
- 2.2.7 For children with Special Educational Needs we have maintained a range of services. In a recent visit by DfE, NHS(E) and SEND Advisor, it was concluded that *“the Barnet’s response to Covid 19 has been strong in comparison to many other areas. I am unaware of any significant initiatives taken elsewhere that have not been taken in Barnet”*.

Children’s safeguarding remains the highest context

- 2.2.8 During the COVID period the ChAT report shows there has been a reduction in the number of contacts in the period of around a quarter, with 7916 contacts in the past six months, this was 9283 for the same period in 2019. Timeliness of decision making has remained at 99% since April demonstrating the MASH is managing the working arrangements imposed by the COVID pandemic very well.
- 2.2.9 Patterns of agency contacts continue to fluctuate with the biggest swings in data being recorded against police, education and health services; there has been a 14% increase in police contacts. Education contacts have halved compared to last year, whereas Health has seen 27% increase since last year. The MASH Steering Group will be looking at a breakdown of this information to better understand it. There are noted decreases against the level of contacts from all other agencies following a sharp rise in June (backlog clearance following lift of lockdown restrictions), and the July data is lower than the rolling average at this point in the year.
- 2.2.10 The Performance Matters report shows the volume of referrals (234) is 20% lower than at the same point last year (294) and 6% lower than June (249). However, the referral conversion rate for July is 16% (234 contacts progressed to statutory social work assessment) this is closely in line with the

yearly average of 17%. It is also lower than England and London average, which is positive. Low caseloads mean that there is capacity in the system if there is a spike in referrals when schools go back.

2.2.11 The number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan (162) is 4.7% lower than at the same point last year (170) and 5% lower than June 2020 (171). We have been conducting Virtual CP conferences and have had some good feedback on these. Parents find them less intimidating, and more professionals are attending, including those who would often not be able to due to other commitments, such as psychiatrists and probation.

2.2.12 Health attendance at strategy discussions has reduced, and we will work with the partnership to improve this. NHS staff have been pulled off from some core responsibilities, however MASH still have health staff so there is a need to understand why attendance has fallen.

2.2.13 Proportionately more boys are on CIN plans, and more girls on CP plans. There has been a reduction in CSE, which last year was the reason for more girls on CP plans, so we are revisiting this. We will also be looking at ethnicity data to try to understand whether families are receiving early help interventions at the right time due to some disproportionality showing in the data.

2.2.14 234 Early Help Assessments (EHAs) were opened in July which is a 29% increase on opened EHAs at the same point last year (166), and a 33% increase from June (156). 208 EHA's were closed in July which is a 12% increase on the same point last year (183) and 3% higher than the rolling average (201). Resulting in a Net difference of 26 more cases. The Multi-Agency Early Help Panels have continued to operate remotely with good attendance from all key agencies.

2.2.15 In partnership with key local providers, schools and the voluntary and community sector, a summer programme of activities has been developed building on the virtual delivery since the start of lockdown. Early Help staff have delivered on-line programmes of activity with interactive, live and pre-recorded sessions in place. Staff are virtually facilitating online sessions via Zoom for young people aged 7-19 years, and up to 25-years-old for young people with special educational needs. Pre-recorded sessions take place throughout the week via YouTube. Early Help buildings and settings are prepared to re-open; risk assessments were undertaken during June and in accordance with government guidance issued on 1st July (revised on 10/07/20).

2.2.16 Early Help practitioners have maintained weekly contact with families on the NHS shielded list and ensured weekly food deliveries, prescription collection and any additional help is identified and provided; this continued until 31/07/20 when shielding was no longer be required. Group work programmes with parents including domestic abuse and parenting programmes remain a challenge to deliver as limitations remain in place regarding social distancing and support bubbles.

Supporting Corporate Parenting

2.2.17 Numbers of children in care remain stable. Some UASC came into care in the last month but during the lockdown the numbers coming into care was very low.

2.2.18 Placements stability has been good in the last 6 months. In the last month there have been some moves for very specific reasons, but largely in the last 6 months foster carers and residential homes have held the children and provided a lot of stability. Relationships in placements have been very positive. There was a group of children persistently going 'missing' because they wanted to go home, and risk assessments were completed and some of these children did go home and have remained in the care of family members.

2.2.19 Barnet has been approached by the Home Office to support Kent with UASCs. We are not willing to take anyone under the scheme until it is properly resourced. This is a London wide position.

2.2.20 Following a recruitment campaign during Fostering Week, 17 new foster carers will be approved by October, and another 6 are going through the assessment process. More recruitment campaign activity is happening, and we are approaching those that have previously enquired about foster care, about whether they would like to be assessed as supporting lodgings hosts.

2.2.21 The Executive Director chairs the Pan London Programme Board overseeing delivery of the following programmes:

- Development of Pan London Commissioning Vehicle
- Resettlement and alternative to youth custody provision
- Rees centre research to inform Pan London commissioning focusing on: Mother and baby residential; Complex adolescence including those at risk of exploitation; ASD, behaviour and/or mental health issues; and Sexually harmful behaviour
- Secure children's home provision
- Mother and Baby residential units

- SEMH/ASD provision
- Vulnerable adolescents programme

2.2.22 This programme is about transforming the placements landscape in London to drive improved corporate parenting, efficiency and effectiveness

Children's mental health and wellbeing

2.2.23 The impact on children's mental health and wellbeing has been seen nationally and locally. Our local survey highlighted this as a key area of concern; 40% of children surveyed considered that the effect of the crisis is harming their mental health. There has been an increase in anxiety related presentations to our Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (BICS) and to KOOTH (our commissioned online counselling service), which has reported a 25% increase in demand. BICS has set up a help line and are delivering workshops and groups as part of an extension to their offer which will continue with the additional transformation investment.

2.2.24 Additional CAMHS transformation money has been invested into the Mental Health in Schools teams to provide additional support. Investment into parenting assessments has been made and £50K of government funding for return to school has been invested into further Schools Campaign.

2.2.25 Over 80% of childcare settings are now open and the most recent DfE submission showed 3,398 children are attending Early Years settings, 636 of these were children of key workers and 184 are vulnerable children. Only 6 settings (3%) are planning on remaining closed until September. LB Barnet nurseries at Newstead and Greentops have provided childcare services throughout the lockdown period. The Early Years team have been working with the Early Years standards team (Cambridge Education) to support with Risk assessments for providers. Network meetings have been held with all settings.

2.2.26 Six Children's Centres have remained open for midwives to deliver face to face services to the most vulnerable families. Children Centre staff have regular phone contact with families registered and have contacted all families on the new birth data list since lockdown. Children Centres organise virtual sessions such as rhyme times, cooking and story time. These, together partner services, are shared through Facebook pages. A virtual timetable has been developed for the summer, with some small face to face groups for the most vulnerable families taking place in August. The programme of summer activities has now been uploaded to the Council's Website and Children

centres Facebook pages. This borough-wide programme offers a blend of interactive on-line, sessions, pre-recorded on-line materials, telephone support, as well as targeted face-to-face sessions. The Face-to-Face sessions include buggy walks for the most isolated parents with young children, and school-readiness workshops.

2.2.27 Children's Centres have been working in partnership with Young Barnet Foundation, Libraries and Health to deliver activity packs to the most vulnerable through Foodbanks, Home Start and Burnt Oak refugee service and have delivered over 750 packs.

Life Chances

2.2.28 In July 2020 the number of working aged adults claiming work related benefits was 18,105 which has tripled since February 2020 (6,455). Young people are at significant risk of economic hardship with 18-24-year olds claiming benefits up from 2.5% in July 2019 to 9.5% in July 2020 and seventeen-year olds are more likely to be furloughed. Our care leavers in education, employment or training has decreased by almost 10% compared to last year. The effects of this will have wide ranging impacts on many outcomes including skills to enter the job market, access to good quality housing and health and wellbeing. These issues will be addressed through a refreshed "Life Chances Strategy". A survey was completed to inform the strategy, with 737 young people responding. Key headlines are:

- The majority of young people consider the effect of the crisis to be harming their long-term education (53%), followed by doing much less physical activity (52%) and their mental health and well-being being affected (40%)
- Young people say they were most worried about their education and exams (58%) during lockdown, followed by staying safe from the coronavirus (34%) and their mental health and well-being (33%)
- The majority of young people think more support should be provided for dealing with stress and isolation (53%) followed by activities and exercises for children while at home (45%) and close and regular contact with teachers (44%)

3 Children and Young People Plan

3.1 The following sections provide an update on progress against the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2019-23. The CYPP was structured around seven outcomes and the updates are structured accordingly. They have been provided by the partners which are members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. Family Services updates are not included here as they are set out in the Recovery Plan.

Family and Belonging

- 3.1.1 Complex care partnership continues to work well. There has been improvement in the prevention and early help response for families with signposting of the appropriate provision when relevant. Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) continue to review the risk register in partnership meetings to ensure oversight and appropriate actions.
- 3.1.2 There has been a strong partnership response, through the complex care partnership meeting, to the COVID-19 pandemic including the identification of children, young people and families needing extra support. This has allowed for the development of Outdoor Spaces to allow families access to outdoor space.
- 3.1.3 The launch of Fit and Active Barnet (FAB); a campaign that encourages and inspires residents to include more physical activity into their day has proved very successful. The campaign represented a diverse range of residents to reflect the population, including age, race and disability. As of March 2020, 27,071 residents had registered for a FAB card, representing a 6,192 (29.7%) increase since 2019. 50% of members are aged 5-16yrs. Barnet's commitment to registered carers, looked after children, and care leavers provides them with enhanced benefits to the FAB Card including free swimming at any time.
- 3.1.4 The virtual London Youth Games (LYG) took place over four weeks in June/July, giving children and young people the chance to represent the Borough in a series of sport related challenges. Barnet placed 5th overall, the highest overall position in our history to date.

Safe and Secure

- 3.1.5 This outcome is covered in the above sections on Family Services Recovery Plan.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1.6 The Adolescent Crisis Team (ACT) provided essential support to the North Central London (NCL) crisis pathway through the COVID-19 response and continue to do so as CYP's mental health needs rise in this phase of the pandemic and with the return to school. A 24/7 crisis hotline was set up in the first phase of the pandemic response.

- 3.1.7 By March 2020, 101 members of school staff were trained youth mental health first aiders in Barnet exceeding the target for the financial year. Youth mental health first aiders training been paused during lockdown, however, the majority of schools in Barnet now have a youth mental first aider.
- 3.1.8 The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) provider has continued to deliver HCP health checks throughout lockdown (virtually but providing in person consultations where there were safeguarding or other concerns).
- 3.1.9 Barnet public health has worked with the BCCG and other partners to promote routine childhood vaccination during lockdown, focussing on 0-4 year vaccinations that have continued to be delivered by GP practices throughout the crisis.
- 3.1.10 Health Education Partnership (HEP) continued to support schools throughout lockdown, including support for the healthy schools award programme (with good continuation of the awards programme from early years), teacher training sessions, and resources to help schools support children's emotional and physical health.
- 3.1.11 The YP sexual health promotion service has continued to deliver support and education throughout lockdown remotely, including outreach to vulnerable young people and training sessions for school staff.

Education and Learning

- 3.1.12 Attainment in key stage 2 was a real strength with Barnet CLA outperforming the same group at the expected standard both in the DfE region and nationally. Reading at greater depth was also a strength. The proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in Reading Writing and Mathematics is roughly in line with 2018. Looking at the attainment of CLA in Barnet with no special educational needs (5 children), 100% met the expected standard in all areas. Barnet's progress score for Reading Writing and Maths is better than all comparators. Barnet's Rank for progress is within the top 10% of Local Authorities for all three measures. Barnet is ranked 1st for progress made in maths, 3rd in Reading and 5th in Writing (out of 151 LAs).
- 3.1.13 The Risk of NEET (RON) programme has now ceased August 2020 due to lack of funding and will not be continuing next year. The young people identified as Risk of NEET from September 2019 have been tracked throughout the COVID period and 90% of students have intended destinations for September 2020. We continue to work with the other 10% to identify a range of opportunities. Young people have been signposted to Barnet and Southgate College and other local providers.

3.1.14 Barnet has seen a large improvement in the attainment and progress of SEN pupils at KS4 - both for pupils receiving SEN Support and pupils with an EHC Plan. Achievement for SEN Support pupils is in the top 10% nationally.

3.1.15 100% of on time Barnet applicants received a statutory offer on primary and secondary National Offer Days, 2020. In the primary phase, 4,281 Barnet residents applied on time for Reception 2020 place; an increment of 109 compared to the previous year. Approximately 84% of Barnet children were offered a Reception 2020 place at their top choice school. In the secondary phase, 4,300 Barnet residents applied on time for a secondary 2020 place; 85% were offered a place at their top choice school.

Culture

3.1.16 Barnet Youth Board has expanded the membership over the last 12 months through work with schools and organisations to ensure that young people from across the borough are well represented. Members are aged from 11-18 years (up to 25 with additional needs) and represent a wide variety of socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds.

3.1.17 Our UNICEF Child Rights staff survey received 211 responses. The study revealed that 21% of respondents have received training on children's rights while 98% said using a child rights-based approach makes it easier to challenge decisions that they think are not in the child's best interest. 54% see local authority leaders using a child-rights based approach to shape their decisions.

3.1.18 Barnet's approach to healthy streets is included in its Long-Term Transport Strategy. The final version will be presented to Environment Committee in September 2020 for approval and adoption. This strategy outlines what the council is planning to do to support delivery of the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy.

Co-Operation and Leadership

3.1.19 Our Children in Care & Care Leavers survey received responses from 73 children and young people. The findings show 87% of children in care enjoy their education while 98% of children feel involved in decisions about their life and 83% of care leavers feel confident about managing their finances

3.1.20 As part of our commitment to fully represent young views, young people from across all forums (Barnet youth Board, Youth Assembly, #BOP [Children in

Care Council] and BING [SEND forum]) have had the opportunity to be involved in the following:

- Public Health consultation
- Library services consultation
- Barnet New Local Plan consultation
- Communications team Mental Health campaign
- Barnet Transport Strategy consultation (online question due to being unable to run the workshop face to face due to Covid-19)
- Covid-19 Young People Online survey

Communication

3.1.21 Children and young people (CYP) have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. The Communications team has ensured that CYP have been a target audience in the council's communications response to the emergency. Within a week of lockdown, essential information was provided for children and parents on what was happening, particularly to education arrangements. As Barnet moved out of lockdown, and settled into the 'new normal', a communications plan is in place to help young people adjust and cope.

3.1.22 August has seen the launch of the first CYP mental health campaign, timed to coincide with A-Level and GCSE results days. The campaign promoted the Kooth counselling service for people experiencing stress and anxiety. Campaign activity included posters at 200 bus stops and street display sites in the borough, targeted social media promotion, advice feature in Barnet First magazine and newsletter, and information sent to schools.

3.1.23 A dedicated Instagram channel has been launched for children and young people. Following a consultation with a panel of young people, it has been named '@BarnetYouth_' and is targeted at 13-25. The content aims to inspire and influence CYP, focusing on education, careers, the arts and sport. We have recruited some superb influencers, including Olympians, entrepreneurs, and advocates for a range of social causes.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

Not applicable.

5 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Following the Committee's comment on the strategy and progress against priorities updates will be made accordingly. Regular monitoring of progress against the priorities will be carried out by the Senior Management Team with quarterly reports to CMT. The annual refresh of our self-assessment will be undertaken and reported to the November committee meeting.

6 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

6.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

6.1.1 Family Friendly is a Corporate Plan outcome and a corporate recovery priority

6.1.2 The approach taken supports the corporate and committee aims to:

- Maintaining good or better services
- Improve services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do.

6.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.2.1 Additional Spend because of COVID-19 and recovery is being tracked by the services and as of end of July, the actual additional spend so far was £830k. Further spending has been forecasted to meet additional pressure on Family Services, this includes lost income for Cambridge Education, and increased costs for services, key areas are placements and 18-25 provision. Additional investments have been made to services to aid recovery: Elective Home Education; Mental Health; Back to Schools campaign; and for Mental Health in Schools team.

6.3 Social Value

6.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

6.4 Legal and Constitutional References

6.4.1 Local authorities have specific duties in respect of children under various

legislation including the Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004. They have a general duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area and, if this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing services appropriate to the child's needs. They also have a duty to promote the upbringing of such children by their families, by providing services appropriate to the child's needs, provided this is consistent with the child's safety and welfare. They should do this in partnership with parents, in a way that is sensitive to the child's race, religion, culture and language and that, where practicable, takes account of the child's wishes and feelings. Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities must consider how the child or young person can be supported to facilitate their development and to help them achieve the "best possible educational and other outcomes

6.4.2 The Council's Constitution, Article 7 notes that the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee has 'Responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools and education.'

6.5 Risk Management

6.5.1 Risk are recorded on the Family Services Risk Register and monitored each quarter by the Senior Leadership Team with escalations to CMY if necessary. There are three key risks to recovery: Lost learning, as parents may choose not to send their children back to school due to safety concerns; The decision to stop free travel for under 18s on London transport network may impact young people in Barnet; There may be a surge in demand for services as all children return to school.

6.6 Equalities and Diversity

6.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public-Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

6.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services

6.6.3 Protected characteristics will be reviewed as part of the needs assessments and any changes to provision will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

6.6.4 As the long-term impact of COVID-19 is materialising, we will track the potentially disproportionate impact on our children, young people and families in our regular performance monitoring.

6.6.5 We will be also be looking at ethnicity data to try to understand whether families

are receiving early help interventions at the right time due to some disproportionality showing in the data.

6.6.6 Proportionally more boys are on CIN plans, and more girls on CP plans. There has been a reduction in CSE, which last year was the reason for more girls on CP plans, so we are revisiting this.

6.6.7 As a Council we have also responded to the Black Lives Matter movement. In the initial stage, we held workshops with our staff and we are currently taking actions forward.

6.7 Corporate Parenting Principles

6.7.1 In July 2016, the Government published their Care Leavers' strategy Keep on Caring which outlined that the "... [the government] will introduce a set of corporate parenting principles that will require all departments within a local authority to recognise their role as corporate parents, encouraging them to look at the services and support that they provide through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do to support their own children.'

6.7.2 The corporate parenting principles set out seven principles that local authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions in relation to looked after children and young people, as follows:

1. to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people;
2. to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings;
3. to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people;
4. to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners;
5. to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people;
6. for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and;
7. to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

6.7.3 The needs of children in care and leaving care have informed the recovery priorities.

6.8 Consultation and Engagement

6.8.1 Consultation and engagement with young people is central to social work practice and service improvement across Family Services.

6.8.2 The Recovery Strategy and priorities have been informed by:

- Engagement with Family Services Senior Management Team
- Consultation with the Children & Young People's Partnership Board

6.8.3 The Young Persons 2019 Survey was a regular face-to-face survey of 500 Barnet young residents aged 11-18. Results of the survey looks at the reputation, service and local area perceptions, as well as a range of demographic and usage indicators.

6.8.4 The Young People's Online 2020 Survey was conducted with Year 5, Year 6 and all secondary school students in light of COVID-19. 853 young people responded. The results highlight concerns and worries and provide useful information to support young people, which will be used to inform a revised Life Chances strategy.

6.8.5 Barnet now have 2 members of Youth Parliament (UKYP's) and 2 Youth Ambassadors following elections held in early 2020. All are members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board providing important voices in the decisioning making process.

6.8.6 To ensure a successful transition into independent living, some young people may need additional help. We have developed an offer for these young people through our Moving Forward project, were young people stay in shared accommodation with other young people and receive targeted support preparing them for independent living. We are now piloting it at a 4-bed property in West Hendon. 3 young people have this far moved in, and have recently been interviewed to hear their views, and to help explore ways of improving the service as well as plans for future properties. They will be interviewed a second time before they move out of the property.

6.9 Insight

6.9.1 Data from Performance Matters and weekly data reports have informed the strategy as well as national and local priorities for recovery.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.